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Authority E.O. 12958

By KJ NARA Date 07/03/07

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exchange*

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FM LORD

TO HOOB

T O P S E C R E T SENSITIVE EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY SWH0023

MARCH 9, 1973

TO: HOOB

FROM: WINSTON LORD

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO YOUR CUSTOMER.

BEGIN TEXT:

1. THE US SIDE GREATLY APPRECIATES THE CHINESE MESSAGES OF MARCH 9, 1973. IT WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE ADVANCE PARTY FOR THE LIAISON OFFICE IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

THE US SIDE IS GRATIFIED OVER THE CHINESE HUMANITARIAN GESTURE IN COMMUTING JOHN DOWNEY'S TERM AND RELEASING HIM AHEAD OF TIME ON MARCH 12, AS WELL AS TO HEAR THAT PHILIP SMITH AND ROBERT FLYNN WILL BE RELEASED ON MARCH 15, 1973. THE US SIDE WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH THE CHINESE SIDE CONCERNING THE DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS FOR THESE RELEASES.

THE U.S. SIDE WISHES THE CHINESE SIDE TO KNOW THAT THE PRESIDENT INFORMED THE GOVERNOR OF DOWNEY'S STATE, WHO HAS AN INTENSE PERSONAL INTEREST IN DOWNEY'S MOTHER'S CONDITION, OF THE UPCOMING RELEASE OF DOWNEY. UNFORTUNATELY, THE GOVERNOR MENTIONED THE PROPOSED RELEASE TO THE PRESS AND THE WHITE HOUSE HAS THEREFORE BEEN FORCED TO CONFIRM THE FACTS BEFORE HAVING BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN THE CONCURRENCE OF THE CHINESE SIDE TO A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. THE US SIDE IS PLEASED THAT THE CHINESE SIDE HAS ACCEPTED DAVID BRUCE AS THE HEAD OF THE US LIAISON OFFICE. IF THE CHINESE SIDE AGREES, THE PRESIDENT PLANS TO MAKE A PERSONAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID BRUCE AND OF THE DETAILS OF THE LIAISON OFFICE AS AGREED TO BY THE CHINESE SIDE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT NOON, WASHINGTON TIME, ON MARCH 15. SINCE THE PRESIDENT PLANS TO OPEN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE WITH THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, THE US SIDE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF THE CHINESE SIDE COULD CONFIRM ITS AGREEMENT TO SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT.

END TEXT.

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***** WHSR COMMENT *****

INFO COPIES TO: HOWE, LORD

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